

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments, as support can be found in Applicants' disclosure in at least paragraphs [0038] and [0044]. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,492,657 to Burlefinger in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,671,411 to Satoh. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The Office Action asserts that the applied prior art references, in some permissible combination, teach, or would have suggested, all of the features as recited in at least independent claims 1 and 2. However, the applied prior art references, in any permissible combination, do not teach "a data read part which combines signals detected by a number of electron detection parts operated by said operation control part based on the orthogonal modulation pattern and time sequence and outputs the combined signals," as positively recited in amended claims 1 and 2.

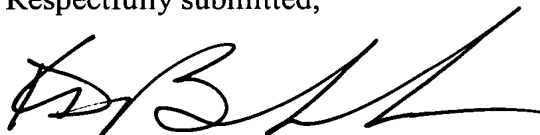
For at least the above reasons, the applied prior art references cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations all of the features recited in at least independent claims 1 and 2. Further, claims 3 and 4 would also not have been suggested by the applied prior art references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable independent claims 1 and 2, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of applied prior art references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 20, 2007

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